

## **GMT 7. OPERATIONAL SECURITY (OPSEC)**

### SECURITY BRIEF

LESSON TITLE: Operational Security

DATE PREPARED: November 1997. Prepared by HM1(FMF) Torres

TIME: 1/2 Hour

METHOD: Lecture/Film Presentation

LOCATION: Classroom, Office, or respective work space

INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED: One

REFERENCES: (a) OPSEC SURVEY GUIDE J3M-947-83  
(b) Video TSC #363, Security Briefing  
(COMSEC/OPSEC)

TRAINING AIDS: TV Monitor  
VCR  
Video TSC #363, Security Briefing (COMSEC/OPSEC)

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Operational Security must be a concern of all individuals from the conception, during and after completion of any operation, exercise or plan. It makes little sense to protect an operation by classifying some parts of it or to expand COMSEC resources protecting information about it when unclassified conversations, stereotype procedures and other readily available data could provide the enemy with meaningful intelligence indicators. Operational Security must be a matter of continuing concern throughout the life of an operation.

### **II. DEFINITION**

The OPSEC survey is a methodology used to determine if the degree of protection from hostile intelligence exploitation is adequate during planning, preparation, execution, and post-execution phases of any given operation or activity. It is characterized by analyses of all associated functions in order to identify sources of information disclosure, what information is disclosed, and estimates that can be derived from the information.

### **III. BACKGROUND**

The OPSEC survey methodology originated with the "PURPLE DRAGON" survey of US air operations in Southeast Asia in late 1966 and early 1967. The survey was intended as a one-

time undertaking, but the success of the technique led to the establishment of a permanent surveying organization on the CINCPAC staff in mid-1967. The term OPSEC was invented as a functional title for the organization. OPSEC surveys have since been performed on a wide variety of US military combat and peacetime operations throughout the world. The OPSEC survey concept is applicable to all operations/activities whether planned, on-going, or completed.

#### **IV. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF FRIENDLY INFORMATION (EEFI's)**

Essential Elements of Friendly Information are those types or categories of information concerning a plan, project, or activity which is acquired by hostile interests may jeopardize successful execution of an operation. Each major command develops its own EEFI's. Some examples could include:

1. Combat Readiness.
2. Changes in Mission.
3. Introduction of New Equipment.
4. Security Clearances of Individuals.
5. Medical Information Requirements or Actions.

Many of those items in and of themselves are unclassified. Yet, they can when combined, provide significant information as to unit intentions and operations. Remember, regardless of how minute the information you may possess about any given plan or operation, protect it as if it were the missing piece of information needed by hostile intelligence agents to complete their sinister mission of intelligence, subversion, and propaganda.

Successful operations frequently depend upon the concealment of capabilities and intentions. You, the individual are the only one can give the information the required protection. Therefore, OPSEC is your responsibility just as Communications Security (COMSEC). The reins of command are in your hands. By diligently practicing COMSEC and Operational Security procedures everyday, you can keep them secured. This concludes this briefing.